

LANDMARKS

A PUBLICATION OF THE D.C. OFFICE OF PLANNING/HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

FALL 2007



Government of the District of Columbia Adrian M. Fenty, Mayor



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FIFTH ANNUAL MAYOR'S AWARDS PROGRAM WELL RECEIVED

Mayor Adrian M. Fenty delivered the keynote address at the 5th Annual Mayor's Awards for Excellence in

Historic Preservation on October 9th at the Atlas Performing Arts Center in the emerging H Street corridor.

"These awards are about more than beautiful buildings and attention to detail," said Mayor Adrian M. Fenty. "What we are honoring tonight is the vision these people have shown by recognizing the important role historic preservation plays in building great places and great neighborhoods."

This marked the third consecutive year the event was co-sponsored by the **DC Preservation League**. And thanks to generous support from lead event sponsor, the **Logan Hardware, Glover Hardware, Tenley Ace Hardware** stores, "**A few cool Hardware Stores**"™, owned by Marc Friedman and Gina Schaefer, and the host, **Atlas Performing Arts Center**, this year's event was a memorable one for the historic preservation and development community of the District of Columbia. Additional support for the event was provided by **Nixon Peabody LLP, U.S. Bank**, and the law firm of **Jones Day**.

Honorees this year were:

Individual Lifetime Achievement

John G. Parsons, associate regional director of the National Park Service

Excellence in Community Involvement

DC Community Heritage Project – The Humanities Council of Washington, DC

Excellence in Public Education

DC Modern Symposium – DC Preservation League



Photo Credit: Beckha A. Drake

Mayor Adrian M. Fenty addressed an enthusiastic audience at the 5th Annual Mayor's Awards for Excellence in Historic Preservation.

Excellence in Archaeology

Archaeology Survey at the Walter E. Pierce Community Park – Howard University; Kalorama Citizens Association

Excellence in Design – Restoration and Rehabilitation

Atlas Performing Arts Center, 1333 H Street, NE – CORE architecture + design; Sprenger Lang Foundation; Atlas LLC; Tishman Construction; Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pitman

Murch Elementary School Cupola

Restoration, 4810 36th Street, NW – Clark Construction Group; Gordon Contractors, Inc., Murch Elementary School

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MALONEY NAMED NEW STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

At this year's Mayor's Awards for Excellence in Historic Preservation ceremony on October 9, D.C.

Planning Director Harriet Tregoning named David Maloney the District's new State Historic Preservation Officer.

"David has been working on preservation issues for more than 25 years and he is hands-down the best candidate for the job," Tregoning said. "We are delighted that he has decided to take on this new leadership position. He has been and will continue to be a huge asset to us."

Maloney had been serving as acting director since January 2006 and had been Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer since 2003. Maloney is extensively involved in all aspects of the preservation program, with lead responsibility for preservation planning and the review



Photo Credit: Beckha A. Drake

David Maloney received applause from the audience after the announcement of his new appointment as District's new State Historic Preservation Officer.

of major commercial and government projects downtown and in the Mall area. He represents the Mayor on the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission.

Prior to joining the HPO in 1985, Maloney served for seven years as staff architect and program manager for the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation, focusing on residential and historic preservation programs. He received a BA in Architecture from Princeton, attended the graduate architecture program at the University of Pennsylvania, and received an MA in Urban and Regional Planning from the George Washington University. ♦

HPO LAUNCHES HOMEOWNER GRANT PILOT PROGRAM

Response to the Historic Homeowner Grant Program pilot project focused on the Anacostia Historic District exceeded all expectations. From 200 homeowner-occupied residences in the district, the office received 138 Part I's of the initial application by the July 9th deadline. Of these, 90 met the necessary criteria thresholds.

HPO expects to award grants totaling \$300,000 out of the initial \$1.2 million allocated for this pilot project. The remaining \$900,000 will be available for grants in the 12



Photo credit: HPO Office

Residences such as these pictured will qualify for the Historic Homeowner Grant Program.

approved districts after October 1 and an additional \$1.25 million has been proposed for the District budget for the following year.

Additional information on the program including a FAQ sheet and list of applicable historic districts is available on the HPO website at <http://planning.dc.gov/preservation>. Please select Financial Incentives and Resources. ♦

THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE

the addition of Ruth Troccoli to our staff!

Ruth is an archaeologist who comes to us from Versar, Inc., where she was a senior archaeologist and project manager. She has worked at sites nationwide, conducting fieldwork, completing contextual research, and managing archaeological excavations. She earned her PhD in Anthropology from the University of Florida,



*Ruth Troccoli,
Archaeologist*

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Photo Credit: Beckha A. Drake

HPO Is Please to Announce from page 2 writing her dissertation on Native American women chiefs of the southeastern United States.

Ruth brings her broad-ranging knowledge of conservation and curation of artifacts, federal regulatory requirements, and local resources to the Office. Her interests in the archaeology of military sites, Native American tribes of the eastern states, historic ceramics, and post-contact Native American material culture will be a benefit to the HPO and the city.

Ruth has already dived into work – updating a GIS map of all archaeological sites, reviewing federal and local projects, and upgrading the archaeological site file system. If you have questions for Ruth on the city's historic or prehistoric archaeological, she can be reached at (202) 442-8836. ❖

COMMUNITY OUTREACH UPDATE

The DC Community Heritage Project is a collaboration between the Humanities Council of Washington, DC and The DC Historic Preservation Office. The purpose is to support neighborhood preservationists and historians engaged in "telling the stories" of their communities through skills building and resource development. Organized in December 2004 out of the desire to support the history keepers of communities endangered by rapid development the District, the project supports a preliminary step in the historic preservation process. Through semi-annual symposia, the DC Community Heritage Project has been quietly providing a way for neighborhood preservationists to network, dialogue about issues of concern, and to learn to package the history in a way that makes it easy to disseminate or communicate a community's significance. Symposia sessions have included highlights of neighborhood preservation projects, dialogue with developers, and how-to sessions on history video development and leveraging community resources to maximize community benefits packages.

In addition to the five symposia to date, other outcomes of the Community Heritage Project include the development of directory of neighborhood preservationists. However, perhaps the most important outcome has been direct funding for community preservation initiatives. The Humanities Council, which is already a grant-making agency, was able to attract additional funding and dedicate it specif-



*Patsy Fletcher,
Community Outreach
Coordinator*

Photo Credit: HPO

ically to the DC Community Heritage Project and its mission to aid community heritage preservation efforts. Several projects competed for grants of up to \$2,000. The result was funding of a project from each of the eight wards and two city-wide projects. The amounts ranged from \$1,000 to \$2,000. Here are the grantees. See if you recognize any.

Ward 1: The Robert and Mary Church Terrell House and LeDroit Park Museum and Cultural Center

LeDroit Park Oral History

Support for an oral history project based in LeDroit Park.

Ward 2: Shaw Main Streets

Shaw Heritage Coloring Book

Printing of a coloring book designed to teach children about the history of the Shaw neighborhood.

Ward 3: Palisades Museum of Prehistory

Primitive Technology Video Production

Support the production of a video on early tool-making in the District of Columbia.

Ward 4: The Military Road School

Aunt Betty

To conduct research on "Aunt Betty," a well-known 19th century resident of the Fort Stevens area of Ward 4.

Ward 5: Empowerment DC

Ivy City Neighborhood and Oral History Project

To continue an oral history project of Ivy City residents.

Ward 6: Friends of Southeast Library

Capitol Hill Heritage Center

Support for establishing a neighborhood heritage center at the Capitol Hill library.

Ward 7: Washington Parks and People

Neighborhood Heritage Festival

Support of a gathering of present and former residents to celebrate and collect materials and memories of their lives in seven communities in Ward 7, including the Watts Branch of the Anacostia River, Hillbrook, Deanwood, Burrville, Lincoln Heights, Northeast Boundary and Grant Park.

Ward 8: Frederick Douglass Gardens, Inc.

Anacostia Oral History Project

Support of an oral history project of five interviews of long time Anacostia residents about their memories of the community.

City-wide: Arts Engine

Working, D.C.

Support for a series of interviews of DC residents from all over the city discussing their work and work lives. Based on Studs Terkel's well-known book of interviews, *Working*, the interviews will be edited down to five minutes and aired on WAMU.

City-wide: Association of Oldest Inhabitants of D.C.

"History and Neighborhood" Exhibit

Support for planning a project at the Historical Society involving a young scholar researching the history of a number of D.C.'s historic districts.

These projects will go a long way in memorializing what is historically significant about DC neighborhoods. At the same time, the hope is that they lay the groundwork for increased interest in the pursuit of historic preservation.

Finally, the DC Community Heritage Project, through funding from the National Trust for Historic Preservation deSchweinitz grant program, presented a workshop on preparing landmark nominations by two of DC's most experienced landmark nomination preparers, Kim Williams and Peter Sefton on October 13th. The session familiarized lay preservationists with the National Register nomination form and basic requirements for surveying and recommending properties for landmark designation. *Patsy Fletcher is the Community Outreach Coordinator for the HPO.* ❖

SMITHSONIAN DIG ON NATIONAL MALL

One of the first official duties of Ruth Troccoli, Ph.D., HPO's new archaeologist, was an early July field trip to the National Mall to inspect and observe a Phase II archaeological evaluation of the site for the future Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture.

The Section 106 investigation of the ground is required in advance of actual construction of the museum complex. Ruth reports that the excavations yielded no substantial Native American artifacts although Smithsonian archaeologists identified sites in the area in the 1890s. The archaeologists also hoped to find evidence of early farms and plantations that were established before the area became the Nation's Capital, or of military camps that were there during the Civil War. A number of artifacts from the past 200 years were unearthed during the project but no building foundations were identified.

According to Chief Archaeologist Charles LeeDecker of the cultural resources consulting firm Louis Berger Group, Inc., the north side of the tract was originally part of the bed of Tiber Creek, which ran through the area. The creek bed became part of the Washington City Canal that linked the land-bound portions of the city to the Potomac and Anacostia rivers, and to the C&O Canal. Construction of the canal was begun about 1810. Neglect and competition from railroads made the canal obsolete and it was mainly used as a sewer. The

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Mayor's Awards Program from page 1

Republic of Turkey Ambassador's Residence, 1606 23rd Street, NW – Republic of Turkey; Archetype Architects; Summer Consultants; KEG, LLC; Gaal & Associates; Renovations Unlimited

Summit Grand Parc, Former Mine Workers Building, 1500 I Street, NW – Martinez & Johnson | Architecture; EHT Traceries, Inc; Camden Properties, Inc.

Wisconsin Avenue Bridge Restoration, Georgetown National Landmark Historic District – KCI Associates; Federal Highway Administration; National Park Service - Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historic Park; District of Columbia Department of Transportation

Excellence in Design – New Construction
Sledmere House, 1000 Rhode Island Avenue, NW – Martin Hardy, builder/developer; Michael Vallen, architect

State Historic Preservation Officer's Award
Carroll Square, 921-935 F Street, NW – Oehrlein & Associates Architects; Akridge; SmithGroup; Clark Construction Group



Photo Credit: Michael Moran

The tastefully lighted Art Moderne façade of the Atlas Performing Arts Center, the historic Atlas Theater, at 1333 H Street, NE welcomed attendees of the 5th Annual Mayor's Awards for Excellence in Historic Preservation.

Historic Preservation Review Board Chairman's Award for Law and Public Policy:

Elizabeth Rugaber, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman

Photos of the event are posted on the DC Preservation League website. A direct link to the album may be accessed at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/14880935@N03/sets/72157602370661970/>. ❖

Smithsonian Dig from page 3

canal was filled in largely by household refuse following the Civil War.

In all, the five-person team excavated 15 trenches and square units or holes during the investigation. In some areas they used a backhoe to quickly get below the dirt fill that was used to create the smooth surface visible on the Mall today. Then they dug out the square units using shovels, buckets, and trowels. All of the excavated dirt was dumped into shaker screens that hold back objects but allow the dirt to pass through. The contents of each screen was sorted and all the artifacts were collected. Each artifact is being examined to determine its date, function, and place of origin, where possible. Some of the broken dishes have makers marks on the base that allow the archaeologists to determine exactly when and where the original item was made. The dated artifacts help date the layers in which they were found. All of the information generated by the excavations will be included in a report being completed by the project team.

One interesting find, Ruth reports, is evidence of tennis courts that were located on the property following the completion of the neighborhood by Washington Monument in 1884. ❖

OLD NAVAL HOSPITAL UPDATE

The Old Naval Hospital on Pennsylvania Avenue, SE was constructed toward the end of the Civil War to house injured Navy seamen and officers. This DC Landmark is a grand brick structure that mixes elements of the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. The building was used as a hospital for veterans of the Civil and Spanish-American Wars and later became the Temporary Home for Old Soldiers and Sailors.

After housing a variety of city-related organizations for several decades of the 20th century, the building was largely unused. Most recently, the DC Office of Property Management (OPM) solicited proposals to restore and occupy the building. A public-private committee appointed by OPM, including a representative from the Historic Preservation Office, selected the Hill Center to rehabilitate the building.

The Hill Center, a 501(c)(3) organization, plans to restore the interior and exterior of the building and grounds and offer a wide range of educational and lifelong learning opportunities

The Old Naval Hospital on Pennsylvania Avenue, SE.



Photo Credit: Bell Architects, PC

for local youth and adults, including classes in computer literacy, languages, music, drawing and painting, parenting, creative writing and cooking and nutrition as well as space for lectures, recitals, art shows and other community events. ❖

EASTERN MARKET UPDATE

On April 30, 2007, tragedy struck the landmark Eastern Market in Capitol Hill. A fire gutted the 1873 South Hall building, which was planning a major rehabilitation at the time. The Historic Preservation Review Board had reviewed a proposal to repair windows, doors, steps, and cornices; install air conditioning and improve accessibility, lighting, fire suppression, and security.

Since the fire, the scope of work has increased to include immediate stabilization and reconstruction of the roof and framing system. The Market will receive a new slate roof with skylight, supported by a new truss system integrated with and designed to match the existing, damaged cast iron system.

A temporary structure for displaced vendors is now open on the grounds of Hine Junior High School across 7th Street from the Market. Renovations and reoccupation of the Market are scheduled for completion in early 2009. ❖

HPO PARTICIPATES IN ANC OUTREACH EFFORTS

The Office of Planning outreach efforts targeting District decision makers recently included four training sessions to acquaint Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners of the work handled by the office including the Historic Preservation Office. At four community meetings, held in late spring, ANC commissioners were briefed on the various projects and processes involved in development planning.

In addition to these sessions, the Historic Preservation Office provided each commissioner and commission offices with the historic preservation primer *Basic Preservation* published by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. ANC offices were also provided the companion CD *What Every Board Member Needs to Know* about historic preservation.

The book and CD purchase were financed with federal funds from a matching grant from the National Park Service, Department of Interior, under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. ❖